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LIVESTOCK AND MEAT
FLM 7-69
June 1969

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS

UP SLIGHTLY

World cattle numbers continued slowly upward during last year and set a new high of 1,161 million head at the beginning of 1969. The annual rate of growth for the past two consecutive years has been less than 1 percent and is expected to approximate the same percentage increase for the current year.

The increase in beef cattle numbers more than offsets the continuing downward trend in dairy cattle. This is occurring world-wide, except in Western Europe where the number of dairy cattle continues to rise. Many countries

Cattle and buffalo: Estimated world numbers
by continent and area, average 1961-65, annual 1967-69

Continent and area	Average 1961-65	1967	1968	1969	Percent change 1969 / 1961-65	Percent change 1969 / 1968
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	Percent
North America	150,500	160,700	162,000	163,000	+ 8.3	+ 0.6
South America	168,700	190,700	191,800	190,200	+12.7	- .8
Europe:						
Western	83,400	87,200	87,500	88,100	+ 5.6	+ .7
Eastern	33,000	35,000	35,400	34,700	+ 5.2	- 2.0
Total Europe	116,400	122,200	122,900	122,800	+ 5.5	- .1
USSR	83,500	97,100	97,200	95,700	+14.6	- 1.5
Africa	128,100	133,700	134,600	134,400	+ 4.9	- .1
Asia	395,500	419,100	423,500	425,600	+ 7.6	+ .5
Oceania	25,300	26,300	27,800	29,200	+15.4	+ 5.0
Total World	1,068,000	1,149,800	1,159,800	1,160,900	+ 8.7	+ .1

Cattle and buffalo: Number in specified countries, average 1961-65, annual 1967-69

Continent and country	Month of enumeration 1/	Average 1961-65	1967	1968 2/	1969 2/
		Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand
North America:					
Canada	Dec. 1	11,332	11,749	11,775	11,475
United States 3/	Jan. 1	103,892	108,645	109,152	109,661
Puerto Rico	Jan.	488	490	497	---
Costa Rica	Jan. 1	1,128	1,387	1,480	1,575
El Salvador	June 1	1,179	1,240	1,250	---
Guatemala	May 1	1,245	1,242	1,371	1,419
Honduras	Jan. 1	1,255	1,380	1,450	1,493
Mexico	Dec.	19,337	23,294	23,628	24,000
Nicaragua	Jan. 1	1,299	1,600	1,630	1,750
Panama	Jan.	860	1,039	1,110	---
Dominican Republic		1,115	1,093	1,082	1,077
Total 4/		150,500	160,700	162,000	163,000
South America:					
Argentina	June 30	43,341	51,227	51,465	---
Brazil	Dec. 31	78,718	90,060	89,992	---
Chile	Dec.	3,006	3,097	3,100	---
Colombia	Oct.	15,780	17,932	18,830	19,583
Ecuador	Aug.	1,680	1,800	1,830	---
Paraguay		5,349	5,542	5,461	---
Peru	July 1	3,461	3,700	3,700	---
Uruguay	June 30	8,526	8,300	8,300	---
Venezuela	Dec. 31	6,580	6,822	6,911	7,000
Total 4/		168,700	190,700	191,800	190,200
Europe:					
Western:					
EEC:					
Belgium	Jan.	2,572	2,597	2,611	2,655
France	Oct.	20,020	21,184	21,680	21,918
Germany, West	Dec.	13,115	13,973	13,981	14,045
Italy 5/	Jan.	9,292	9,700	9,800	9,900
Netherlands	Jan.	3,415	3,633	3,663	3,725
Luxembourg	May	159	183	187	---
Total 4/		48,573	51,270	51,922	52,430
Austria	Dec.	2,388	2,497	2,480	2,433
Denmark	Jan.	3,318	3,231	3,142	3,004
Finland	Dec.	1,961	1,895	1,855	---
Greece 5/	Dec.	1,107	1,115	1,131	1,116
Ireland	Jan.	4,320	5,150	5,030	5,086
Norway	Dec.	1,094	996	969	999
Portugal	Dec.	1,120	1,050	1,060	1,070
Spain	Oct.	3,697	3,757	3,914	4,021
Sweden	June	2,400	2,083	2,065	---
Switzerland	April	1,746	1,835	1,855	---
United Kingdom	Dec.	11,610	12,171	11,996	12,123
Total 4/		34,825	35,847	35,564	35,670
Total Western Europe 4/		83,400	87,200	87,500	88,100
Eastern:					
Albania 5/		419	---	---	---
Bulgaria 5/	Jan.	1,687	1,492	1,462	---
Czechoslovakia	Jan. 1	4,466	4,462	4,437	4,325
Germany, East	Dec. 3	4,605	4,918	5,019	---
Hungary 5/	March	1,941	2,015	2,095	2,060
Poland	June 30	9,697	10,768	10,940	---
Romania 5/	Jan.	4,639	5,198	5,332	5,130
Yugoslavia 5/	Jan. 15	5,509	5,773	5,737	5,305
Total Eastern Europe 4/		33,000	35,000	35,400	34,700
Total Europe 4/		116,400	122,200	122,900	122,800
USSR	Jan. 1	83,500	97,100	97,200	95,700

(Continued)

Cattle and buffalo: Number in specified countries, average 1961-65, annual 1967-69

(Continued)

Continent and country	Month of enumeration 1/	Average 1961-65	1967	1968 2/	1969 2/
		Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand
Africa:					
Morocco		2,745	2,550	---	---
Tunisia	Dec. 31	558	---	600	---
Malawi	Dec. 31	384	450	---	---
Uganda 6/		3,485	---	3,781	---
Botswana		1,293	1,105	---	---
South Africa, Republic of	June 30	12,514	11,920	12,145	---
Swaziland	Sept.	533	505	---	---
Total 4/		128,100	133,700	134,600	134,400
Asia:					
Iran 5/	Mar. 1	4,782	5,640	5,750	5,855
Turkey 5/	Dec. 31	13,783	15,022	15,413	15,750
Cambodia 5/	Dec.	1,842	2,500	---	---
China, Taiwan 5/	Dec.	405	367	345	---
Japan	Feb. 1	3,327	2,928	3,155	---
Korea, South	Dec. 31	1,218	1,299	1,255	---
Philippines 5/	Mar. 1	4,849	5,620	5,805	5,970
Thailand 5/		12,128	12,500	12,700	---
Vietnam, South 5/	Dec. 31	1,937	1,764	1,698	---
Total 4/		395,500	419,100	423,500	425,600
Oceania:					
Australia	Mar.	18,357	18,270	19,218	---
New Zealand	Jan.	6,646	7,747	8,247	8,700
Total 4/		25,300	26,300	27,800	29,200
Total World 4/		1,068,000	1,149,800	1,159,800	1,160,900

1/ Official estimates for enumerations falling in October-December are shown in the following year for comparisons. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ 50 States. 4/ Includes an allowance for missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 5/ Includes buffalo. 6/ On native farms.

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in the world, Central America, South America, and Africa, have various types of programs underway for increasing beef cattle production. Also, many of the developing nations have beef cattle development programs and projects underway as part of their over-all economic development plan to increase foreign exchange earnings through exporting more beef to the highly developed nations of the world.

Cattle numbers did not increase in all geographic regions last year. Declines were recorded for South America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and for the USSR. Oceania showed the largest percentage gain, followed by Western Europe, North America, and Asia.

North America. All countries in this region increased herds over the previous year, except for Canada and the Dominican Republic. Continued growth in this area can be expected in the near future.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Cattle numbers on farms and ranches in the United States set a new high of 109.7 million head as of January 1, 1969. Beef cattle accounted for the increase and more than offset the further decrease in dairy cattle. Dairy cattle numbers have now declined for 15 consecutive years. With record numbers of cattle, including the larger breeding herd, more beef is likely to be produced in the near future.

South America. Cattle numbers in this area declined to 190.2 million head from 191.9 million for 1968. Brazil, Argentina, and Chile accounted for most of the drop and offset the small gains recorded for Colombia and Venezuela. A reversal in the downward trend is expected this year, due to more favorable forage conditions and a significant reduction in death loss from adverse weather and forage. Beef cattle numbers are likely to show marked expansion as certain countries in this area continued their national and international development programs for expanding beef production.

Western Europe. Cattle numbers on farms in this area rose to 88.1 million head from 87.5 million in 1968. Member countries of the EC accounted for four-fifths of the absolute gain from the previous year with the United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, and Portugal accounting for most of the remaining 20 percent. The increase was in dairy herds in the Netherlands, France, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, and Portugal. The number of dairy cattle in the Scandinavian countries, Austria, and Switzerland were down from the previous year.

Cattle numbers in the EC rose to 52.4 million head from 51.9 million for 1968. Further increases in numbers are expected as EC strives to improve its self-sufficiency in beef production.

Eastern Europe. Cattle numbers on farms in this area were estimated at 34.7 million head at the beginning of 1968. Yugoslavia, Romania, and Czechoslovakia accounted for most of the area's decline. Also, cattle numbers in the USSR declined to 95.7 million head from 97.2 million for 1968.

Africa. Numbers in this area were estimated at 134.4 million head, down slightly from the estimated figure of 134.6 million for 1968. The continuing disease problems in many countries and their inability to establish foreign outlets for beef have impeded the buildup in cattle numbers in Africa.

Asia. Cattle numbers in this area were estimated at 425.5 million head, compared with 423.5 million for 1968. Most countries show gains from the previous year. Numbers in such countries as Japan, Turkey, Iran, and Thailand continued their upward trends.

Oceania. Cattle numbers in this area at the beginning of 1969 had the largest percentage increase in the world. Numbers increased from 27.8 million head in 1968 to 29.2 million in 1969, or a net gain of 5.0 percent. Australia accounted for about 70 percent of the absolute increase and New Zealand for the remaining 30 percent. Both of these countries now have a much larger potential for further increases in cattle numbers following the voluntary restraints placed on their meat shipments.